

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are canceled and new claims 4-10 are added herein. Support for the amendment is found, for example, in the original claims, page 11, lines 5-11, page 12, lines 5-6, page 13, line 20 to page 14, line 3, page 14, lines 4-5 and Example 2 of the present specification.

The specification is amended on page 14 to correct a typographical error by changing the term "silic acid" to "silicic acid" in line 4.

No new matter is presented.

Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 4-10 will be all of the claims pending before the Examiner for examination.

I. Priority Documents

In the Office Action dated January 19, 2005, the Examiner indicates that the certified copy of the priority document has not been received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The certified copy of the priority document was filed on February 10, 2005, after the Office Action was mailed on January 19, 2005. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request confirmation of receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the next Official Action.

II. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tomita et al (EP 1 219 464 A2).

Claims 1-3 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

As for new claims 4-10, Applicants note that the presently claimed invention of claims 4-9 is directed to a method for producing a support for a lithographic printing plate precursor

comprising treating a layer of inorganic compound particles with a treating solution capable of dissolving the inorganic compound particles, thereby fusing together the inorganic compound particles (i.e., sealing treatment).

Tomita et al discloses a hydrophilic surface treatment with a compound containing fluorine or silicon. However, the presently claimed method recited in new claim 4 of the present application comprises a two-stage treatment involving: (1) a sealing treatment (a fluorine treatment), and (2) a hydrophilic surface treatment (a silicon treatment).

In view of the above, the presently claimed invention as recited in new claims 4-9 is distinguished over Tomita et al. Claim 10 is directed to a support for a lithographic printing plate precursor as recited, which is not disclosed in Tomita et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hotta et al (EP 1247 644 A2).

Claims 1-3 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Hotta et al does not qualify as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) against the present invention in view of the fact that it was published on October 9, 2002, which is less than one year prior to the filing date of the present application of September 4, 2003. Therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is improper.

Further, Applicants claim priority to JP 2002-261402, which was filed in Japan on September 6, 2002, which is before the effective date of Hotta et al of October 9, 2002. The subject matter of the present claims 4-10 is described in the priority document as shown below.

A sworn English translation of the priority document is filed herewith in compliance with
37 C.F.R. § 1.55:

Claim of Present App. No. 10/653,928	Support in JP App No. 2002-261402
Claim 4	Claims 1 and 2 and page 26, lines 10-15
Claim 5	Page 11, lines 20-21
Claim 6	Page 10, line 20 to page 11, line 1
Claim 7	Example 2 and page 78, paragraph (h)
Claim 8	Page 13, lines 5-12
Claim 9	Page 26, lines 17-22
Claim 10	Example 2

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection over
Hotta et al.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed
to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the
Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is
kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
US. APPLN. NO. 10/653,928

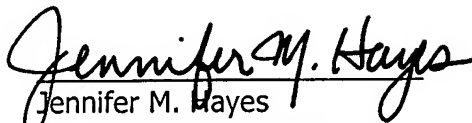
ATTY DKT Q77295

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER


Jennifer M. Hayes
Registration No. 40,641

Date: May 19, 2005